floor of a building in which said ascending and descending cage is disposed, said machine room is adjacent an elevator passage for said cage and a rotation surface of said sheave is adjacent a side of said cage when said cage is positioned at said top floor.

2. (Amended) The elevator apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said actuating device includes a support member, a speed-reducer mounted on a first side of said support member, a drive assembly mounted on a second side of said support member, and a brake assembly supported on said second side of said support member, said second side being opposite from said first side.

3. (Amended) The elevator apparatus according to claim 2, wherein said speed-reducer, said drive assembly and said brake assembly are arranged coaxially to one another.

4. (Amended) The elevator apparatus according to claim 2, wherein said brake assembly is arranged radially inwardly of said drive assembly.

5. (Amended) The elevator apparatus according to claim 2, wherein an output wheel of said speed-reducer constitutes said sheave.

REMARKS

Claims 1-6 are currently pending in the application as amended. The Applicants have addressed the Examiner's specific rejections of claims 1-5 based upon indefiniteness. In addition, the Applicants have amended claim 1 to point out that a rotation surface of a sheave is adjacent a side of an elevator cage when the cage is positioned at a top floor of a building. Support for the amendment can be found in Fig. 2b and on lines 6-20 of page 11 of the specification. Accordingly, no new matter has been added.

CLAIMS

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 112

The Examiner rejected claims 1-6 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point and distinctly claim the subject matter which the Applicants regard as the invention. Specifically, the Examiner argues that claim 1 recites that the machine room "faces" with an elevator passage and the word "faces" is indefinite because it

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